

Create Your Own State Park Native Plant Selections



Native Maryland Overstory Tree Recommendations

Planting Trees for Birds, Butterflies & Wildlife

The following list of Maryland native trees are commonly found throughout the state. Including native trees and plant species in your yard contributes to the native wildlife food web. Your yard will provide habitat and a food source for birds, insects, as well as for other native wildlife. These plants were selected for their important value to pollinators, birds, and wildlife. You may attract some new visitors from your neighborhood natural community into the habitat you have created in your own yard!

Tree Species	Pollinator, Bird, Wildlife Value
Oak species , <i>Quercus</i> especially <i>Quercus alba</i> , White Oak, MD State Tree	Acorns provide food for wildlife and birds. Hosts up to 534 different caterpillar species! <i>(The most of any native tree species)</i>
Willow species , <i>Salix</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds. Hosts up to 456 caterpillar species!
Birch species , <i>Betula</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds. Hosts up to 413 caterpillar species!
Maple species , <i>Acer</i>	Early spring bloomer, good tree for wildlife and birds. Hosts up to 285 caterpillar species!
American Beech <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Beech nuts provide food for wildlife and birds. Hosts up to 126 caterpillar species!
American Holly <i>Ilex opaca</i>	Berries are a good food source for birds and wildlife. Evergreen provides year-round shelter for birds.
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds. Outstanding fall color.
Sweet Gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Provides bird and wildlife habitat. Host plant for Luna Moth.
American Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Provides bird and wildlife habitat.
Tulip Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Bird and wildlife habitat. Hummingbirds feed on flowers. Host plant for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly.

Additional Resources:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 2012.
<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf>
- Doug Tallamy. *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press, 2018.



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